

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 6, 13-22, 25-35, 38, 41-46 and 53-54.

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1. (Original) An isolated bacteriophage which is lytic for *Methylobacterium* species, Human blood bacterium (HBB), or both.
2. (Currently Amended) The bacteriophage of claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage is ~~present in~~ deposited as ATCC# PTA-5075 ATCC #PTA-5075.
3. (Original) The bacteriophage of claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage is lytic for human blood bacterium (HBB).
4. (Original) The bacteriophage of claim 1 wherein the bacteriophage is lytic for Pink Pigmented Faculatative Methylootrophs (PPFM).
5. (Currently Amended) The bacteriophage of claim 4 wherein the PPFM is selected from the group consisting of *M. mesophilicum*, *M. organophilum* and *M. extorquens* [[or]] and combinations thereof.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) A method for purifying a bacteriophage which is lytic for *Methylobacterium* species comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining bacteriophage from a sample that has been in contact with plant matter;
 - b) plating the bacteriophage onto a medium comprising at least one *Methylobacterium* species derived from a plant or seeds of a plant;
 - c) collecting plaques formed in the *Methylobacterium*-containing medium; and
 - d) purifying the isolated plaques.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein steps b-d are repeated with the product of step (d) until a virulent bacteriophage preparation is obtained.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the *Methylobacterium* species is a PPFM.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the PPFM is selected from the group consisting of *M. mesophilicum*, *M. organophilum* and *M. extorquens* or combinations thereof

11. (Original) A method for purifying a bacteriophage which is lytic for HBB, comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining bacteriophage from a human blood sample;
- b) plating the bacteriophage onto a medium comprising HBB;
- c) collecting plaques formed in the HBB-containing medium; and
- d) purifying the isolated plaques.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein steps b-d are repeated with the product of step (d) until a virulent bacteriophage preparation is obtained.

13-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A formulation for removing *Methylobacterium* from a plant or seeds of a plant comprising a bacteriophage lytic for at least one *Methylobacterium* species and a carrier, diluent or dispersant, wherein the bacteriophage is present in an amount sufficient to significantly reduce or eliminate *Methylobacterium* from the plant or seeds of the plant.

24. (Original) The formulation of claim 23 wherein the amount of bacteriophage in the formulation is about 10^4 to 10^6 pfu per mL.

25-35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of bacteriophage which is lytic for *Methylobacterium* species, HBB, or both, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein the bacteriophage is ~~selected from~~ deposited as ATCC# PTA-5075 ATCC #PTA-5075.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 wherein the bacteriophage is present at a titer of approximately 10^2 - 10^{11} PFU/ml or PFU/g.

40. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 wherein the bacteriophage is present at a titer of approximately 10^5 - 10^9 PFU/ml or PFU/g.

41-46. (Canceled)

47. (Original) A composition for disinfecting an article contaminated with HBB or *Methylobacterium* comprising a disinfecting amount of a bacteriophage which is lytic for HBB, *Methylobacterium*, or both and a carrier, diluent or dispersant.

48. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 47 wherein the bacteriophage is ~~selected from~~ deposited as ATCC# PTA-5075 ATCC #PTA-5075.

49. (Original) A kit for applying a bacteriophage lytic for HBB or *Methylobacterium* to an article or plant comprising, the bacteriophage and a suitable carrier, diluent or

dispersant in a container and a mechanism for dispensing the bacteriophage from the container.

50. (Original) A kit for applying a bacteriophage lytic for HBB or *Methylobacterium* to an article or plant comprising a freeze dried bacteriophage in a first container; a suitable phage carrier diluent or dispersant in a second container; and a mechanism for dispensing the bacteriophage.

51. (Original) The kit of claim 49 wherein the mechanism for dispensing the bacteriophage is a sprayer.

52. (Original) The kit of claim 49 wherein the mechanism for dispensing is a wipe.

53-54. (Canceled)

55. (Original) A composition for use in therapy comprising a bacteriophage lytic for HBB.

56. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 55 wherein the bacteriophage is ~~selected from~~ deposited as ATCC# PTA-5075 ATCC #PTA-5075.